(ii) As regards provision of long distance telephone connections and conversion of Manual and Automatic exchange into Electronic exchanges, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Government or Orissa has agreed to allot a piece of land measuring 2.15 acres for housing telephone exchange at Jajpur.

At present the post of DET is not justified for Jajpur. However an Asstt. Engineer has been posted at Jajpur.

(d) It is plunned to convert all the exchanges into electronic exchanges and open public telephones to all the quarters of Gram Panchayat progressively.

Pib Office at Aurangabad

1592. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for establishing a new office of the Press information Bureau at Aurangabad in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the proposal and arrived at a decision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The opening of new PIB offices depends on the size of the 8th plan and availability of financial resources.

Expansion of Telecom facilities in Hilly Areas

1593. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive plan has been formulated for the expansion of telecommunication facilities in inaccessible hilly and dessert areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made of proposed to be made in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has made a plan to provide telephone facility to all Panchayat villages including inaccessible hilly and desert areas in the country. 12,000 such villages have been planned to be provided with telephone facility during 1991-92.

(c) Out of total of 2, 28, 920 village panchayats, 47,167 have been provided with telephone facility as on 31.10.1991. The remaining village panchayats have been planned to be provided with telephone facility by 31st March, 1995.

[*Translation*]

Assistance to SCs/STs Candidates for competitive Examination

1594. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4411 on August 26, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected; and